

make sure that they have access to this fund for which it was created and not have to go to courts to have class action lawsuits. And that is what we are working on with the other body and the majority leader in the other body to get done.

I want to read just a couple of letters that come from these people who have no place to turn. Here is a letter that came from a Marcy Kelly from Mullica Hill, New Jersey, and she writes:

"My son turned 4 in October, 2002, and was diagnosed with autism after a long history of medical problems that began at 2 months, within 1 week of his first series of thimerosal-containing vaccines. His immune system, weakened to where he couldn't handle viruses (resulting in recurring ear infections and RSV), he had reflux, terrible allergies and eczema, and a reaction to his MMR shot that is documented to have caused vomiting nightly for 6 months post vaccination and 2 years of diarrhea. Medical tests show toxic levels of metals, reduced glutathione, malabsorption, maldigestion, severe allergies, and liver problems, all common in those poisoned by mercury. He regressed into autism between 18 and 24 months." As a father and grandfather, you understand the heartbreak that I felt.

This is a picture of him.

"We have spent well over \$100,000 in the last 2 years, mostly on medical visits, tests, and therapies. Our insurance company, Aetna US Healthcare, stopped paying for these funds." So they have no place to go.

And she ends up by saying, "I understand that you intend to take our stories before Congress, not individually but as a group. If you could take a single child (or family with more than one child on the spectrum) and pile up all of the medical and therapy bills, ADA drill books and materials, and supplements used to help them heal from the effects of vaccines, it would be quite mountainous and tell a story as well. God be with you and with other politicians as they vote on matters relating to autism. In the quiet of night, if politicians would ask themselves the question 'what is right?' the answer in their hearts would be to help their children and their families."

We have the ability to do that, and we must do something and we must do it very soon, because these families are suffering; and we have to be very diligent to make sure the other body does not put some language in the bill that would be like what was in the homeland security bill which protected pharmaceutical companies but not the children.

I yield to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman so very much. I caught his presentation on the screen as I was going through the cloakroom, and I cannot tell him how proud I am of him for dealing with this issue of autism and children. I commend him for his in-

terest. I commend him for the work that he is doing on it.

I came in close contact with children who were autistic when I started in the Head Start program.

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Prior to the Head Start program, we had children who were autistic and had other kinds of deficiencies that never got discovered, and that is one reason I love the Head Start program so very, very much. But the most interesting and the most challenging and the most untold story was the story of children with autism.

I join the gentleman in his efforts and will do everything that I can to bring attention and resources to help these families of children who have autism.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, we will contact the gentlewoman on that legislation. We will be down here every night that is available to talk about this issue. I thank the gentlewoman.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE NANCY PELOSI, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURGESS) laid before the House the following communication from NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,
April 8, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to (40 U.S.C. 188a), I hereby appoint Rep. Chaka Fattah as a member of the United States Capitol Preservation Commission for the 108th Congress.
Best Regards,

NANCY PELOSI.

WILL WE WIN THE PEACE?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOEFFEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, due to the bravery and the magnificent performance of American troops, our Armed Forces will soon win a resounding victory over Saddam Hussein, disarming him and eliminating the threat of his regime. Now that we are on the verge of winning the war, we must now turn our attention to winning the peace.

The morning after our military victory over Saddam, we will wake up to four challenges in Iraq: peacekeeping, humanitarian relief, reconstruction, and governance. How we face those challenges will determine whether we win the peace, win the battle for the hearts and minds of the people of Iraq, enhance our status in the Muslim world, and maintain our credibility as the leader of free and democratic nations.

I fear we could fail to meet those challenges if we pursue an aggressive,

antagonistic diplomacy that makes demands of our allies, but does not listen to them. We could fail if we embrace unilateralism and abandon our traditional reliance on multinational action. We could fail if we allow the reality or even the appearance of an American military colonial government in Iraq.

To meet these challenges and best serve American national interests, as well as the best interests of the citizens of Iraq, I suggest eight steps:

First, the State Department, not the Defense Department, must be in charge of American policy after the military victory.

Second, whenever and wherever possible, we must internationalize the stabilization and reconstruction operations and not try to do it all ourselves.

Third, American troops in the field will be needed to keep the peace, but we should move quickly to spread the burden of peacekeeping by giving NATO the task. NATO is a robust military alliance that defeated one tyrant in Kosovo and surely could keep order in a post-Saddam Iraq.

Fourth, emergency relief authority must begin with the State Department and USAID, but there is no better chief administrator for the humanitarian challenges than the United Nations. Its vast resources, experience and expertise are unparalleled.

Fifth, we must engage expert multilateral organizations like the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank in the reconstruction of Iraq's infrastructure. A debt restructuring is needed to deal with Iraq's financial burden of \$383 billion including foreign debt, compensation claims, and pending contracts.

Sixth, we should convene a donor's conference soon after the military victory. Funds will be needed right away for quick start reconstruction projects. This could provide a funding opportunity for the Arab League.

Seven, Iraqis must establish corruption-free control over their own oil. We should advocate for a transparent and reformed industry that accounts for oil revenues and devotes profits to rebuilding the country.

Eight, we should urge the United Nations to sponsor a conference on the formation and direction of a transitional Iraqi-based government. Iraqi provisional leaders, internal Saddam opponents, exiles and the international community should be brought together to establish a stable representative government of Iraqis.

We must seize this opportunity to stabilize and unify Iraq and demonstrate to the entire world our commitment to democratic values, personal liberties, and social justice. That is how we win the peace in Iraq.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.